Rental	Rs. 210/-p.m.
Registration charges	Rs. 500/-
Installation charges	Rs. 800/-
Free Calls	125 per month
Units call charges	
126—225	0.60 per call
226—250	0.80 per call
251—500	1.00 per call
Above 500	1.20 per call

(b) The information available in the Directory is old, *i.e.* rental applicable for the period 1.5.99 to 31.1.2001 for an exchange system of over 1000 and less than 30,000 lines. At that time, the rental was Rs. 120/- p.m. and Rs. 100/- p.m. for urban high calling, and rural & low calling urban subscribers, respectively.

(c) The monthly rental for an exchange capacity of more than 1 lakh lines was revised *w.e.f.* 1/2/2001 from Rs. 180/- to Rs. 210/- for rural subscribers, and from Rs. 180/- to Rs. 250/- for low calling urban subscribers, at par with other urban subscribers. This is as per the rural/ urban classification.

(d) According to Census Report of 2001, village Thapakhera has been declared under rural, and as per the tariff applicable, rental is being charged at Rs. 210/- per month which is based on the rural and urban classification and exchange capacity of more than one lakh lines.

Telephone facilities in Manipur

2323. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers as on date in Manipur;

(b) the telephone subscribers in waiting list;

(c) the action taken to clear the waitlisted applicants; and

(d) the plan to expand telephone service in the rural and hilly districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A total of 40949 subcribers have been provided telephones as on date in Manipur by BSNL and the telephone subscribers now in waiting list are 3773.

(d) and (d) To clear the wait-listed applicants, BSNL has reported that it has planned 8,500 as tentative target during the year 2003-2004 for Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) including Wireline and those on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) to expand telephone service in Manipur including rural and hilly districts subject to availability of resources.

BSNL has sought relief from the Government for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) on satellite media to 1215 uncovered villages in Manipur and shall initiate actions to provide telecom facilities to these uncovered villages after receipt of funds.

Internet charges

2324. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that internet browsing charges are likely to increase due to rise in telephone tariff;

(b) whether Government propose to moderate the charges; and

(c) what are the measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Tariffs for Internet browsing through dialup constitute two components, *i.e.* Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) component (charges for local call) and the Internet usage charges. As per the existing rate, during peak hours, the average cost per hour for PSTN component is Rs.24/- whereas *w.e.f.* 1 April, 2003, as per the revised pulse duration announced by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) *vide* 24th Amendment to the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999, the average cost per hour during peak hours for PSTN component will be Rs.36/-. However, TRAI has also specified reduced